

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Claims 1 - 29 (cancelled)

Claim 30 (Currently amended): A method for embedding a message in compressed content comprising at least one key frame and at least one non-key frame, the method comprising:

embedding a message substantially only in one or more key frames, thereby causing the embedded message to be visible only when the compressed content is played back ~~from a recording~~ using trick mode playback.

31. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 30 and wherein the at least one key frame comprises a plurality of key frames.

32. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 31 and wherein the embedding comprises embedding the message in each of the plurality of key frames.

33. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 31 and wherein the embedding comprises embedding the message in only some of the plurality of key frames.

34. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 30 and also comprising:

providing non-compressed content; and
producing the compressed content from the non-compressed content,

wherein the producing comprises the embedding.

35. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 30 and also comprising:

providing the compressed content,

wherein the embedding comprises:

identifying the at least one key frame; and
embedding the message in the at least one identified key
frame.

36. (Currently amended): The method according to claim 30, and also comprising distributing a stream of compressed content onto a storage medium of an end-user unit, the compressed content comprising a plurality of key frames, wherein each individual key frame comprises the embedded message.

37. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 36 and wherein the storage medium comprises a removable storage medium.

38. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 36 and wherein the storage medium is external to the end-user unit.

39. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 36 and wherein the storage medium comprises a pre-recorded medium.

40. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 34 and wherein the compressed content is compressed with MPEG-2 compression.

41. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 40 and wherein the key frame comprises an I-frame.

42. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 41 and wherein the embedded message comprises a text message.

43. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 42 and wherein the embedded message comprises a graphic element.

44. (Currently amended): A message delivery method comprising:

receiving, at a consumer device, compressed content, the compressed content comprising a plurality of video frames, the video frames comprising a plurality of key frames and a plurality of non-key frames, substantially only one or more ~~at least some~~ of the plurality of key frames comprising an embedded message;

selecting at least one of the plurality of key frames from the compressed content, thereby producing at least one selected key frame, the embedded message being comprised in the at least one selected key frame;

producing non-compressed content from the selected at least one of the plurality of key frames; and

outputting the non-compressed content comprising the embedded message, wherein the embedded message is visible only when the compressed content is played back ~~from a recording~~ using trick mode playback.

45. (Previously presented): The message delivery method according to claim 44 and wherein the plurality of video frames is received from a broadcast video stream.

46. (Previously presented): The message delivery method according to claim 44 and wherein the plurality of video frames is received from a digital recording.

47. (Previously presented): The message delivery method according to claim 46 and wherein the digital recording is pre-recorded on a medium.

48. (Previously presented): The message delivery method according to claim 44 and wherein the compressed content is compressed with MPEG-2 compression.

49. (Previously presented): The message delivery method according to claim 44 and wherein the plurality of key frames comprising an embedded message comprises a plurality of I-frames.

50. (Previously presented): The message delivery method according to claim 49 and wherein the embedded message comprises a text message.

51. (Previously presented): The message delivery method according to claim 49 and wherein the embedded message comprises a graphic element.

52. (Currently amended): A pre-recorded medium comprising:

digital compressed content, the content comprising a plurality of video frames, the video frames comprising at least one key frame and at least one non-key frame, substantially only the at least one key frame comprising an embedded message, wherein the embedded message is visible only when the compressed content is played back ~~from a recording~~ using trick mode playback.

53. (Previously presented): The pre-recorded medium according to claim 52 and wherein the embedded message is embedded substantially only in the at least one key frame.

54. (Previously presented): The pre-recorded medium according to claim 52 and wherein the at least one key frame comprising an embedded message comprises a plurality of key frames.

55. (Previously presented): The pre-recorded medium according to claim 52, and wherein the compressed content is compressed with MPEG-2 compression.

56. (Previously presented): The pre-recorded medium according to claim 52 and wherein the at least one key frame comprising an embedded message is an I-frame.

57. (Previously presented): The pre-recorded medium according to claim 52, and wherein the medium comprises a DVD.

58. (Previously presented): The pre-recorded medium according to claim 52, and wherein the message comprises a text message.

59. (Previously presented): The pre-recorded medium according to claim 52, and wherein the message comprises a graphic element.

60. (Currently amended): A message embedder operative to embed a message in compressed content comprising at least one key frame and at least one non-key frame, the embedder embedding the message in substantially only the at least one key frame, wherein the embedded message is visible only when the compressed content is played back ~~from a recording~~ using trick mode playback.

61. (Currently amended): A method for handling compressed content, the method comprising:

embedding a message in compressed content comprising at least one key frame and at least one non-key frame, the embedding comprising embedding the message substantially only in one or more key frames;

receiving the compressed content at a consumer device, the compressed content comprising the at least one key frames comprising the embedded message;

selecting at least one key frames from the compressed content, thereby producing at least one selected key frame, the embedded message being comprised in the at least one selected key frame;

producing non-compressed content from the at least one selected key frame; and

outputting the non-compressed content comprising the embedded message,

wherein the embedded message is visible only when the compressed content is played back ~~from a recording~~ using trick mode playback.

62. (Currently amended): Apparatus for handling compressed content comprising:

an embedder operative to embed a message in compressed content comprising at least one key frames and at least one non-key frame, wherein the embedder embeds the message substantially only in one or more key frames;

a receiver operative to receive the compressed content at a consumer device, the compressed content comprising the at least one key frames comprising the embedded message;

a selector operative to select at least one key frames from the compressed content, thereby producing at least one selected key frame, the embedded message being comprised in the at least one selected key frame;

a producer operative to produce non-compressed content from the at least one selected key frame; and

an outputter operative to output the non-compressed content comprising the embedded message,

wherein the embedded message is visible only when the compressed content is played ~~from a recording~~ during trick mode playback.

63. (Currently amended): Apparatus for message delivery comprising:

a consumer device operative to receive compressed content, the compressed content comprising a plurality of video frames, the video frames comprising a plurality of key frames and a plurality of non-key frames, substantially only one or more ~~at least some~~ of the plurality of key frames comprising an embedded message;

a selector comprised in the consumer device operative to select at least one of the plurality of key frames from the compressed content, thereby producing at least one selected key frame, the embedded message being comprised in the at least one selected key frame;

a producer comprised in the consumer device operative to produce non-compressed content from the selected at least one of the plurality of key frame; and

an outputter comprised in the consumer device operative to output the non-compressed content comprising the embedded message,

wherein the embedded message is visible only when the compressed content is played back ~~from a recording~~ using trick mode playback.

64. (Currently amended): Apparatus for message delivery comprising:

means for receiving compressed content at a consumer device, the compressed content comprising a plurality of video frames, the video frames comprising a plurality of key frames and a plurality of non-key frames, substantially only one or more ~~at least some~~ of the plurality of key frames comprising an embedded message;

means for selecting at least one of the plurality of key frames from the compressed content, thereby producing at least one selected key frame, the embedded message being comprised in the at least one selected key frame;

means for producing non-compressed content from the selected at least one of the plurality of key frames; and

means for outputting the non-compressed content comprising the embedded message, wherein the embedded message is visible only when the compressed content is played back ~~from a recording~~ using trick mode playback.

65. (Currently amended): Apparatus for handling compressed content comprising:

means for embedding a message in compressed content comprising at least one key frame and at least one non-key frame, the embedding comprising embedding the message substantially only in the at least one key frame[[s]];

means for receiving the compressed content at a consumer device, the compressed content comprising the at least one key frame[[s]] comprising the embedded message;

means for selecting at least one key frame[[s]] from the compressed content, thereby producing at least one selected key frame, the embedded message being comprised in the at least one selected key frame;

means for producing non-compressed content from the at least one selected key frame; and

means for outputting the non-compressed content comprising the embedded message,

wherein the embedded message is visible only when the compressed content is played back ~~from a recording~~ using trick mode playback.

66. (new): The method according to claim 34 and wherein the compressed content is compressed with MPEG-4 compression.

67. (new): The message delivery method according to claim 44 and wherein the compressed content is compressed with MPEG-4 compression.

68. (new): The pre-recorded medium according to claim 52, and wherein the compressed content is compressed with MPEG-4 compression.